

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheets make changes to Figs. 11-14 and replace the original sheets with Figs. 11-14.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. Applicants provisionally elect the Species depicted in Figures 1-6, with traverse. Claims 2 and 7-12 are readable on the elected species.

Applicants respectfully submit that this Application is a National Stage of PCT/JP03/013216, filed October 15, 2003. As such, a Restriction Requirement and/or Election of Species is only proper if the subject matter of the pending claims lack Unity of Invention, as discussed in PCT Rule 13.1, 13.2 and MPEP §1850. Applicants submit that the Application, specifically claims 1-12, have Unity of Invention as evidenced by the technical relationship among the claimed inventions involving one or more special technical features. The special technical feature being the integrated gas valve, and as indicated on the International Searching Authority's Search Report.

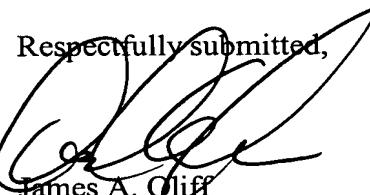
It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all species is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

The Election of Species Requirement, on page 2, objects to Figs. 11-14. Figs. 11-14 are amended with the inclusion of the attached replacement drawing sheets to obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-12 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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JAO:DAT/jam

Attachment:
Replacement Sheets (Figs. 11-14)

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